CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for automatically controlling the movements of at least one camera or camera lens to change the prospective of a scene viewed by said at least one camera or camera lens, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one known sequence of camera parametrics from a plurality of known sequences of camera parametrics, wherein said parametrics provide instruction to control movement of said at least one camera or camera lens;

determining criteria for executing said selected known sequence of camera parametrics, wherein said criteria are responsive to high level parameters contained in said scene; and

adjusting movement of said at least one camera or camera lens in response to said determined criteria.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said at least one known sequence of camera parametrics is selected from the group of camera movements including scanning, zooming, tilting, orientating, panning, fading, zoom-and- pull-back, fade-in, fade-out.

3. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said high level parameters include the number of objects within said scene.

4. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said high level parameters include the position of objects within said scene.

5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said high level parameters include speech recognition of objects within said scene.

6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said high level parameters include audio inputs of objects within said scene.

7. An apparatus for automatically controlling the movements of at least one camera or camera lens to change the prospective of a scene viewed by said at least one camera or camera lens, said apparatus comprising:

a processor operative to:

receive a first input for selecting at least one known sequence of camera parametrics from a plurality of known sequences of camera parametrics, wherein said parametrics provide instruction to control movement of said at least one camera or camera lens;

receive a second input consisting of high level parameters contained in said scene;

determine criteria for executing said selected known sequence of camera parametrics, wherein said criteria are responsive to said high level parameters; and

means for adjusting movement of said at least one camera or camera lens in response to said determined criteria.

8. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said first input is selected from the group of camera movements including scanning, zooming, tilting, orientating, panning, fading, zooming, zoom-and-pull-back, fade-in, fade-out.

9. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said high level parameters include the number of objects within said scene.

10. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said high level parameters include the position of objects within said scene.

11. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said high level parameters include speech recognition of objects within said scene.

12. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said high level parameters include audio inputs of objects within said scene.

13. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said means for adjusting said camera movement includes outputting said criteria over a serial connection.

14. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said means for adjusting said camera movement includes outputting said criteria over a parallel connection.

15. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said means for adjusting said camera movement includes outputting said criteria over a network.

16. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said camera movement is accomplished electronically.

17. The apparatus as recited in claim 7 wherein said camera movement is accomplished mechanically.